

Cliques, Phonies, & Other BALONEY

Written &
illustrated by
Trevor Romain



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—*School Library Journal*

A Parent Council Selection

Cliques, Phonies, & Other Baloney

by Trevor Romain

free spirit
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Romain, Trevor.

Cliques, phonies, and other baloney / Trevor Romain.

p. cm.

Summary: Discusses cliques, what they are and their negative aspects, and gives advice on forming healthier relationships and friendships.

ISBN-13 978-1-57542-045-5

ISBN-10 1-57542-045-7

1. Interpersonal relations in children—Juvenile literature. 2. Cliques (Sociology)—Juvenile literature. 3. Friendship in children—Juvenile literature. [1. Cliques (Sociology) 2. Social groups. 3. Interpersonal relations. 4. Friendship.] I. Title.

BF723.I646R65 1998

758.2'5—dc21

98-36248

CIP

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Printed in Canada

15 14 13 12 11 10

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Dedication

For my young friend, Candy,
a true survivor and a fighter
who never gives up.

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Introduction

Since this is the introduction, I'd like to introduce something. It's a word that's spelled funny and sounds funny, and can actually be a pain in the neck. The word is "clique." It sounds like "trick." It's tricky being "cliquey" as you go through school.

Why? Because cliques can make you feel:

- lonely
- scared
- angry
- unwelcome
- unhappy
- unpopular

When you feel this way, it's hard to have fun, pay attention in school, or feel good about yourself.

If you're bothered by cliques, this book is for you. If you're dying to be in a clique, this book is for you, too. Even if you're in a clique, you can learn something from this book.

This book is about cliques—what they are, what they do, and what *you* can do about *them*. It's also about making friends (those important people in your life who don't mind if you act like a big dork, say the wrong thing, or make a mistake). You'll learn that having good friends isn't always the same thing as being popular or being in a clique. You'll also discover that the best way to get along with people—at school or anywhere else—is to be self-confident and friendly.



Just What Is a Clique?



CLIQUE (noun): a small, closely knit group of people who share things in common.

That definition sounds harmless. So why do some cliques leave you feeling annoyed, uneasy, and even a little queasy?

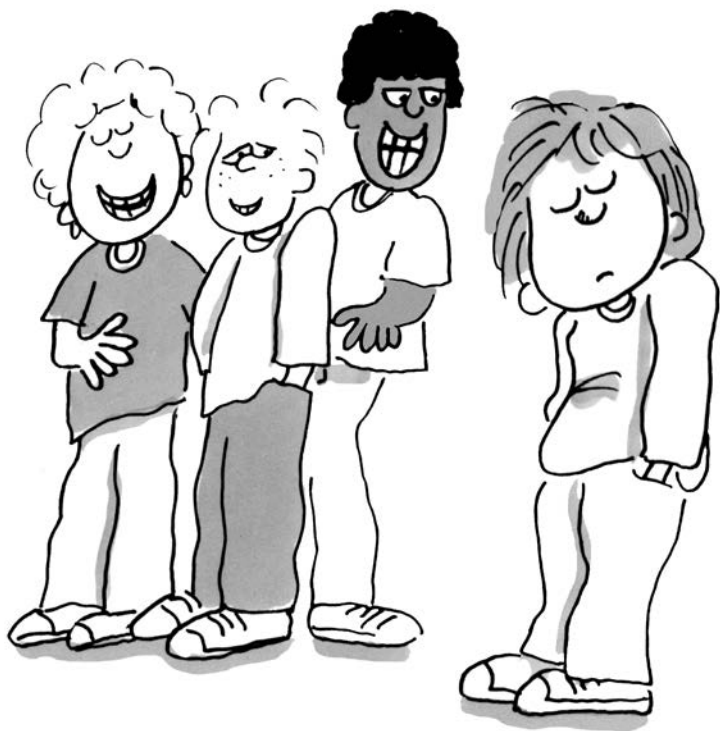


If cliques make you sick, you might have *Cliques Vomitus*, otherwise known as the Clique Sickness. Or maybe you feel like throwing up because the clique is being cliquey. This means the clique members might:

1. Leave other kids out on purpose, and
2. Act like they're better than everyone else—including you.

Cliquey (the Dreaded C-Word)

Not all cliques are cliquey, but many are. Experts say that some cliques behave like this to feel stronger and more powerful. Kids in the clique might feel better about themselves if they say, "Let's not hang out with *that* person."





Being cliquy can make the clique feel secure (because being part of a group is a kind of protection). Think about how wild dogs form packs in the wilderness, or how gangs hang out in the streets. Cliques aren't as dangerous, but the idea is the same. They stick together because there's safety in numbers.

The #1 Clique Myth

Kids in cliques are the most confident,
happy, and popular kids of all.

The Truth: Some clique members may be confident and feel good about themselves. But others may be insecure, which is why being part of a group might make them feel better.



It's also a myth that kids in cliques are always popular. Actually, they may have trouble getting to know other kids in their class or school if they hang out with the same people all the time.

Four Dorky Things Cliques Do

#1: They always travel in a group. They go everywhere together, like a herd of cows.

